

### Seek

We seek God's presence in our lives, to help others in their relationship with God, and to strive to see God's work through all people.

### Serve

We serve God through missions, encourage everyone on their spiritual journey, and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

### Share

We create opportunities for all to share their gifts and talents, and demonstrate openness, acceptance, and hospitality.

## God With Others

#### Worship Schedule:

9:30 Contemporary at Clay Campus

11:00 Traditional at Clay Campus

#### Sunday School:

9:00 Youth Class at Clay Campus

9:30 Pre-K –6 at Clay Campus

#### North Syracuse Worship:

At 605 Bailey Road

12:30 Traditional in North Syracuse

#### Pitcher Hill Community Church



# The Stepping Stone

## June 2017



### Pastor's Page

According to an article in the "The Week" (April 18), the Christian Church in Ghana is growing. Right now, 71% of the 26 million people in this country, are Christian. Many of these Christians attend worship not just on Sunday, but most week nights.

The article said that 41% of the 560 million non-Roman Catholic Christians in the world are Africans. It is projected that by 2050, it will reach 53%.

This becomes an amazing shift in the prominence of Christianity in the world. The continent has had followers of Jesus since the disciple Mark traveled to Egypt soon after the resurrection of Jesus.

The continent has been the focus of missionaries particularly in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. That sharing of the Gospel and the love of God, continues to make an impact. The seeds of faith that were shared so long ago, is making an amazing difference today.

It is easier to be of the faith when the culture is accepting, and there is a movement. It is far more challenging to be of the faith when fewer folks strive to base their lives on the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

We of Faith Journey, continue to seek out ways to share the love of God as We Seek, Serve, and Share God With Others in our time and place. It takes much effort to offer that love when the culture is skeptical.

And I wonder, when will the churches in Ghana start sending missionaries to countries and continents that have fewer believers? When they send folks to not be part of the culture, but to disrupt ways of living with a new hope and a deeper way of living within the love of God. I wonder what that might look like.



## Chicken BBQ

At Faith Journey United Methodist Church June 10

Opens at 11:00am

Prices: \$8 Dinner includes 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, beans and dinner roll \$6 1/2 Chicken

The thing that I do know, is that God is not finished with you and I, and Faith Journey UMC. I do know that God is doing amazing things in the world, especially with those who respond to God in faith, live by Jesus' teachings, and let themselves be led by the Holy Spirit. The more we are able to do this, the more we will enjoy this gift of life God has given us for this day, and all the days to come.

Rev. Bradford Hunt

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 4: This is Pentecost! This is the birthday of the church according to Acts 2:1-21. We will celebrate the Church's beginning, and the sharing of the Good News of Jesus. We will also celebrate communion on this day.

In June, we will be taking time to cover the entire book of James in our worship services. It is a rather small book of the Bible, only six pages in many Bibles.

This is a practical scripture, to help the early church in their instructions for living the life of faith. We do not know who the actual writer was.

On June 11, we will begin the three part series. I challenge you to take time to read the scripture. If you have any questions, I will try to answer or show how to research.

June 11: We begin the practical letter from James. We will focus on Chapter 1. This chapter speaks of faith and wisdom, poverty and riches, hearing and doing.

June 18: James Chapters 2 and 3 will be the focus for our worship. These chapters speak of prejudice, and faith and actions. And, it talks about watching our tongues! We will recognize our High School graduate, Emily Crispin., we will recognize Father's Day.

June 25: We will conclude the letter of James with Chapters 4 and 5. Friendships, boasting, patience and prayer are the subjects of these chapters.

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## Worship Planning Days:

**June 11 at June 25 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed to come plan the following two weeks of worship.**

## Druss Kususi

Druss Kususi continued in May although we did not meet for two weeks. The Druss Kususi families had gone to Pennsylvania for a special celebration with another church the beginning of May and we didn't meet during Memorial Day weekend.

One week we read a story about fibbing and discussed what happens when you lie – even if it is a small lie that you don't think hurts anything. We then did math worksheets with one of the Moms joining in. We also baked bread crumb coated tilapia. Many of the children hadn't had it that way before. They got a chance to help with preparing the bread crumb coating and dipping it and getting it ready to bake. They really enjoyed eating it! Thanks Debbie!

The next week Debbie arranged a field trip for the group to help pick up trash around Tile and Carpet Town on Erie Blvd. The children live in the city so it was good for them to get a chance to help make it cleaner! Tile and Carpet Town provided the gloves and trash bags. After the cleanup they had the opportunity to go to Friendly's to get some ice cream! The clean-up went well and who can resist ice cream! Thanks to Dorothy Mahoney for joining Linda and Debbie to help make this trip a success!

We will be meeting the first two Saturdays in June. The second week we will be giving the children bags that contain workbooks, books, games and other things to keep them busy during the summer. If you would like to contribute to this you may either purchase gift certificates to Five and Below, Ollies, or Dollar Tree or put money in the offering plate clearly marked for Druss Kususi. The children need age appropriate learning and fun activities for the summer to keep them busy and help them to continue their skills.

Thanks to all those who have contributed items for snacks and meals and for the children throughout the year.

## Sunday Schools

During May we learned about Peter and the post-resurrection church. Peter and John, Tabitha, Cornelius and Peter in Prison were all topics. During June we will be talking about courageous people including the disciples and Pentecost, a Courageous Queen, Courageous Friends and Courageous Daniel as we take a look at some Old Testament stories.

### **Karenni Sunday School**

The Karenni class is back to meeting earlier- nearer to 11:15 which gives us plenty of time to read the lesson and work on worksheets. Children who want to also have time to complete a craft. During May we celebrated Mother's Day when the children gave each of the mother's and Connie and I a lei and a gift bag for Mom's. Celebrations are a big deal in this community.

### **New World Ministries Sunday School**

The Sudanese group has had some new children in it as the two youngest children in the congregation, who are 2 and 3 years old join us for at least part of the class. They enjoy hearing the story and singing songs with us. They also enjoy coloring when the older kids are doing worksheets. They often can't do the craft and aren't interested but we work with them to complete it if they stay long enough. They are in and out of the classroom as they get bored easily. The older kids enjoy the worksheets and the crafts.

### **Clay Sunday School**

The Clay Sunday School has different children attending almost every week. We enjoy worksheets and crafts and also have play and snack time. All of the children who attend worship at Clay have the opportunity to join the congregation for Children's time and the last song known commonly known as the 'tambourine song'. They enjoy the opportunity to play tambourines and hand them out to the congregation.

## Annual Conference:

Annual Conference is meeting at the Oncenter in Syracuse, June 1,2,3. This gathering of United Methodist Churches will gather to worship, and to learn, and to do business.

The business is limited to the Clergy and lay members, but the other sessions are open to all who wish to attend. Below is a schedule of sessions you might choose to attend. Or, you can watch it live on [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

Rev. Hunt and Mike Jordan will attend as members of the Annual Conference.

**Thursday, June 1, 2017** 9:15 a.m.: Opening Worship, Bishop Webb preaching (offering for Mission Central HUB) 1 p.m.: Clergy session - (Clergy Care Fund Offering); Laity session - (Helping Hands Fund Offering)

**Friday, June 2, 2017** 8:15 a.m.: Study Leader: Kenda Creasy Dean - "Love Made Me An Inventor: Why an Entrepreneurial Church Matters to Young People" 1-2 p.m.: Study Leader: Kenda Creasy Dean - "Doing a New Thing: The Church of No Excuses"

**Saturday, June 3, 2017** 8:15 a.m.: Worship led by Young People (Mission of Peace offering)

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## **"Moving ahead on the Faith Journey Campaign"**

For three weeks in May, we were challenged with adjusting our financial commitments to serving God through Faith Journey. May 21 was our commitment Sunday. So far, we have received 5 new commitments totaling \$9680! In addition, there were 10 previous commitments that increased by a total of \$3984!

This makes the grand total increase to the budget of \$13,664!

Thanks to all who have contributed to this total. It will go a long way towards paying our bills, and paying for our mission and ministry.

## Southern Sudan Health Projects:

South Sudan continues to be a very troubled country, with fighting, and famine, and poor health care. However, our 8 Home Health Promoters continue their work.

Abraham Nhial was once again on his way to this Syracuse area.

He traveled to Juba, then to Nairobi in Kenya. However, he was denied a visa. This has been his second trip to Nairobi, and is frustrated with his not being allowed a visa. We are working with some of the South Sudanese in Syracuse to go the next step in getting Abraham to come and tell the stories of the Southern Sudan Health Projects.

While in Nairobi, Abraham took sick. We were quite worried as he was unable to speak, and unable to walk. He was only in Nairobi for the purpose of getting a visa. Friends of SSHP took him to a hospital that refused to admit him because he was so ill. It took \$500 to be admitted to the large hospital. It was thought at one time that the illness had brought serious damage to him. However, by the grace of God, they found that it was meningitis, and have treated him. He is expected to recover fully. We will raise enough funds to cover the hospital bill.

In the meantime, the UNY Conference Staff are in the process of making a video of the project. In addition, they are also making a video of Majer Kuon's story of being one of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

Watch for more information.



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## Empty Laundry Detergent Bottles

We are Collecting Empty laundry detergent bottles for St. Rose of Lima food pantry. They will refill the bottles with home made detergent and give them out in their food pantry.



## A new worship!

When the new building is completed, we will restart the Cradle and Beyond ministry, as well as begin a new worship.

The worship will most likely be on a Saturday evening, and will draw from the North Syracuse community.

If you are interested in creating this new worship, please contact Rev. Hunt.

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## The New building

The new 900 Main Street building:

A contract has been granted to remove the asbestos from our new building in North Syracuse. This \$50,000 contract will get us started in redoing the building.

Following the asbestos removal, the roof will be fixed. Then we will begin to get the wiring, and heating in place. Work on the garage would begin as well. We have a long way to go!

Hopefully we will be able to move in by the end of summer.

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## One Hope for Viet Nam

Tina Nguyen is visiting this area once again! Tina is a missionary to her native country of Viet Nam. Tina has spoken a number of times at Faith Journey about her ministry.

A leader of the Christian congregation Tina has started has traveled to the US as well. Ruth is a young Christian leader.

Tina and Ruth will be joining with us in worship on July 16, at all three worship services. Make sure you don't miss the latest news on this mission.

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### "Little Steps"

May 24 was the "moving-up" day for our four students. Songs and picture taking, and food and confetti cannon all made the event very special.

Please notice our new sign in front of the Clay Campus inviting new registrations. We hope to have many more students in the